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# Mike Wallace 'lie' charged at Westy trial

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A former ranking CIA official yesterday denounced as a "lie" a central assertion made by newscaster Mike Wallace in a controversial CBS documentary about the Vietnam War.

Wallace had narrated the 90-minute documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception." The program was aired Jan. 23,

1982, and later touched off a \$120 million libel suit from retired Gen. William C. Westmoreland.

The broadcast maintained that Westmoreland, while he commanded the U.S. forces during the Vietnam War, had quashed efforts by Army and CIA intelligence agents to report higher enemy-strength figures.

About three quarters into the broadcast, Wallace stated: "General Westmoreland had now won the intelli-

gence war. And so, instead of being told of an enemy of more than half a million, the President, the Congress and the American public were told there were only 248,000 Viet Cong left—that the enemy was running out of men."

WHEN REPEATED in court yesterday, Wallace's assertion drew an angry retort from witness George Carver, who was deputy CIA director for Vietnamese

affairs from 1966 to 1973.

"That statement is a lie," Carver snapped after Wallace's statement was read by Westmoreland's attorney, Dan Burt.

U.S. District Court Judge Pierre Leval immediately instructed the jury to disregard Carver's remark.

Wallace, one of three individual defendants in the CBS libel case, was not present for yesterday's session of the trial, which began six weeks ago.

Carver, testifying as a witness for Westmoreland, also said that he had been interviewed for the CBS documentary early in 1982 by producer George Crile, another defendant in the libel case.

But Carver said the interview actually had been "pointless" because by that stage the documentary had already been "in the can"—completed and ready to be broadcast.